

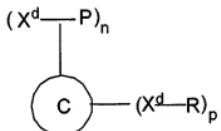
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-383. (Canceled)

384. (Currently Amended) A peptide immunogen-protein/polypeptide carrier conjugate of the formula:



wherein,

C is a protein/polypeptide carrier selected from the group consisting of CRM<sub>197</sub>, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF1224, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF1664, *Streptococcus pyogenes* ORF2452, *Chlamydia pneumoniae* ORF T367, and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* ORF T858,

$X^d$  is a derivatized functional group of an amino acid residue of the protein/polypeptide carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to the protein/polypeptide carrier,

P is a peptide immunogen molecule covalently attached to the derivatized functional group of the amino acid residue of the protein carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to a protein/polypeptide carrier,

R is a capping molecule covalently attached to the derivatized functional group of an amino acid residue of the protein/polypeptide carrier or optionally of an amino acid residue of a peptide linker covalently attached to a protein/polypeptide carrier, wherein the functionality of the carrier is preserved such that it retains its ability to elicit the desired immune responses against the peptide immunogen that would otherwise not occur without a carrier,

n is an integer greater than 0, but less than or equal to 38, and  
p is an integer greater than 0, but less than 38.

385. (Canceled)

386. (Previously Presented) The conjugate of claim 384, wherein the protein/polypeptide carrier is CRM<sub>197</sub>.

387. (Previously Presented) The conjugate of claim 384, wherein the peptide immunogen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial protein, a viral protein, and a eukaryotic protein.

388-391. (Canceled)

392. (Previously Presented) An immunogenic composition, comprising a conjugate of claim 384, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents, and/or adjuvants.

393. (Canceled)

394. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 392, wherein the protein/polypeptide carrier is CRM<sub>197</sub>.

395. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 392, wherein the peptide immunogen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial protein, a viral protein, a fungal protein, a parasite protein, and a eukaryotic protein.

396. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 392, wherein one or more adjuvants are selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, 529 SE, IL-12, aluminum phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Bordetella pertussis*, bacterial lipopolysaccharides, aminoalkyl glucosamine phosphate compounds, MPL™ (3-O-deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A), a polypeptide, Quil A, STIMULON™ QS-21, a

pertussis toxin (PT), an *E.coli* heat-labile toxin (LT), IL-1  $\alpha$ , IL-1  $\beta$ , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-10, IL-13, IL-14, IL-15, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, interferon- $\alpha$ , interferon- $\beta$ , interferon- $\gamma$ , G-CSF, TNF- $\alpha$  and TNF- $\beta$ .

397-401. (Canceled)

402. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic conjugate of claim 384, wherein the capping molecule is a product of reacting the conjugate with a capping reagent selected from the group consisting of cysteamine, N-acetylcysteamine, ethanolamine, ammonia, ammonium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide and sodium carbonate.